



The County Observer

Roanoke County Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

WHAT AMERICA'S CHILDREN CAN SEE AND DO ONLINE HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONCERN FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT EVER SINCE THE INTERNET BECAME WIDELY AVAILABLE. ALTHOUGH THE INTERNET PROVIDES CHILDREN WITH MANY EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS, IT ALSO PRESENTS DANGERS.

The main crime prevention issues children face while surfing the Internet today are:

- Exposure to inappropriate material on the Web that may contain sexual, hateful, or violent content.
- Bullying and harassment through email or chat/bulletin board messages.
- Luring or intent of physical molestation when they innocently provide personal information or arrange a meeting.
- Legal or financial errors, such as giving out parents' credit card number.
- Plagiarism and other intellectual property issues, such as copying information off web-sites into school papers or downloading music

without the owner's permission.

While much of the responsibility for supervising children falls to parents and educators, children themselves need to be taught how to act responsibly and be safe online. There are limits to direct supervision and no filtering software is perfect.

I Safe America, Inc., is a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experience. I-Safe has developed the I-Safe Safe School Education Curriculum, which educates students on how to protect themselves from cyber predators, recognize potentially harmful or inappropriate actions, avoid or extract themselves from potentially dangerous situations, seek help when threatened, and maximize the positive features of the Internet.

The curriculum consists of five lessons for grades K-12. Grades K-2 receive instruction through video lessons, grades 3-8 through in-class teaching, and grades 9-12 through Web casts. Each lesson involves classroom discussion, cooperative group learning activities, and individual student activities, including hands-on learning. Topics covered include computer viruses, rules of good cyber citizenship, techniques used by cyber predators to entice victims via the Internet, real consequences of activities in

cyberspace, and misuse and theft of copyrighted materials (including printed matter, music, video, movies, pictures, and other works). Some of the lessons are taught by trained teachers, and others by law enforcement personnel.

For more information contact: Teri Schroeder, President of I-Safe American, Inc. 5963 La Place Court, #104, Carlsbad, CAA 92008. Telephone: (760)603-7911x12 or Fax: (760)603-8382.

Editor's Note: *From the National Crime Prevention Council-Monthly Action Kit.*

DRIVERS BEWARE

Drivers, please be aware that school is now out for the summer and this offers a whole new list of hazards for drivers to keep in mind. There is a much greater chance that children will be around roads and streets throughout the county. Even if they are not playing in the street, they may not think before running into the street to get a ball or other toy. Although there is a county ordinance prohibiting children from playing in the street, this does not relieve your responsibility to be a safe driver. Remember, once a child is injured, apologizing or making excuses does not make them better. For this reason, the Roanoke County Police Department will be increasing patrol in residential areas and subdivisions in an attempt to slow

traffic down. There will be little tolerance for drivers speeding through these areas. Use extreme caution while driving in these areas and pay close attention to speed limit signs. We would like wish each of you a safe and happy summer.

BURGLARIES

The following burglaries occurred during the month of May.

District one had one residential burglary in the 6600 block of Sherry Road.

District two had one residential burglary in the 2700 block of Summit Ridge Road, one residential burglary in the 5000 block of Jonathan Lane, one residential burglary in the 6800 block of Fair Oaks Road, one business burglary in the 100 block of Hershberger Road, one business burglary in the 300 block of Hershberger Road, and one business burglary in the 4800 block of Hollins Road.

District three had one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Randall Drive, and one business burglary in the 1900 block of Washington Avenue.

District four had one residential burglary in the 5600 block of South Mountain Drive.

District five had one residential burglary in the 3600 block of Colonial Avenue, one residential burglary in the 3300 block of Circle Brook Drive, one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Westmoreland Drive, and one business burglary in the 3500 block of Electric Road.

District six had one business burglary in the 4900 block of Hidden Valley School Road, and one business burglary in the 5000 block of Grandin Road Extension.

District seven had one residential burglary in the 1400 block of Arrow Drive.

District eight had no reported burglaries.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the late issues of the County Observer Newsletter over the past several months. As each of you are aware, Spring is a busy time for everyone and crime prevention is no exception. There have been several exciting events that the Roanoke County Police Department has participated in. The first event was the 6th Annual Roanoke Valley Police Memorial Service held on May 13, 2004. The second event was the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held for our new Vehicle/Pursuit Driving Range located at the end of Twine Hollow. This driving range is a partnership between Roanoke County and Roanoke City.

The back copies of the County Observer Newsletter will be typed up and placed on our Website as soon as possible. There are many good articles that need to be read but are not time sensitive. I apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused, but I do expect to be caught up very soon. Thank you for your patience and I look forward to working with you in the future.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The 20th Annual National Night Out, a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2004. McGruff and the Roanoke County Police Department will be visiting those neighborhoods with events. Please call the Roanoke County Crime Prevention Office at 561-

8062 if your neighborhood has an event planned.

KEEP FIREWORKS SAFE

The Roanoke County Police Department would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Independence Day and asks that you use caution while using legal fireworks.

Fireworks means any firecracker, torpedo, skyrocket, or other substances or object, of whatever form or construction, that contain any explosives or inflammable compound or substance, and is intended, or commonly known as fireworks, and which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, or fires projectiles into the air.

According to 27-100.1 of the Code of Virginia, any law enforcement officer arresting any person for a violation of this chapter related to fireworks shall seize any article of fireworks in the possession or under the control of the person so arrested and shall hold the same until final disposition of any criminal proceedings against such person. If a judgment of conviction entered against such person, the court shall order destruction of such articles upon expiration of the time allowed for appeal of such judgment of conviction.

FAMILY DAY PLANNED

Please note on your calendar that on Saturday, September 4, 2004, from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM, the Roanoke County Police Department will hold it's 1st Annual Neighborhood Watch Family Day. This event will be held at Green Hill Park. At this time, there will be three gospel groups coming to sing as well as other local singers. A magic show is also in the planning stages. This will be a fun day for both adults and children.

This event is planned to give something back to the community for all the hard work and efforts that they give to help keep Roanoke County safe. Please come out and support this program to ensure its success and availability for next year.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

As Crime Prevention Officer, I get the question from parents and guardians all the time as to how to keep their child safe while they are on the computer. One of my frequent responses is that a computer should not be allowed in a child's room or be in a room by itself. It should be placed in a common area such as a living room or a dining room. This allows for some monitoring from other family members as they walk through the house. Also as parents, make sure that you spend time with your child on the computer and show them what is appropriate and not. Take an active part while your child is on the computer. I can guarantee you that if you don't take an active part in your child's life, someone out there in cyberspace will.

SCAM ALERT

The Roanoke County Police Department has received several reports of suspicious circumstances. The first situation dealt with a phone call to a local resident. Someone called the resident and told them that they were from the Government and that the local resident had a refund of \$15000.00 coming to them. The caller stated that they needed all the resident's account information so they could send them their "money".

A second situation occurred during the same time frame where another local resident received a phone call stating that they were going to receive \$25000.00 from

the Government. Again, they needed to give their account information to get the refund.

In both situations, the residents hung up on the callers. Please keep in mind that if something sounds too good to be true it probably is. If in fact this had been legitimate, a check could have been mailed to the recipients or they could have went to a certain location to pick the check up. Never give out any personal information to anyone for any reason unless you initiate the situation.

Finally, there have been several calls coming in dealing with paving and driveway sealing scams. In several instances someone from a company came by someone's residence and offered to pave their driveway at a special rate. The homeowner and company representative came to a verbal agreement and some money was exchanged. The paving company started the job and stated that they would have to get some more materials and never returned.

If you need to have work done, always get a written contract and check around and obtain a few quotes from companies to get the best deal. Often it is better to spend a little more time and money to find a reputable company than to save money by using someone strolling from door to door trying to get your business. Never give any money until the job is complete and if you feel that something isn't right, wait. Remember to stop and think before you jump in and do anything.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please note that the Roanoke County Police Department Website address has changed. It is now:

www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police

Also Officer Rick Crosier's email address has changed and is now: rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	561-8036
Criminal Investigation	561-8063
Vice-Narcotics	561-8097
Crime Prevention	561-8062
rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov	
Rape Aggression Defense	561-8074

RAD@roanokecountyva.gov
AEP (Street Lights, Outages):
1-800-956-4237

CRIME Line **344-8500**

WEBSITES

Roanoke County Police
www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police

Commonwealth of Virginia
Terrorism Alert System new
website address
www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/

National Sheriff's Association
Neighborhood Watch Program
www.usaonwatch.org

RVTV 3 – Roanoke Valley
Television
www.rvtv.org